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The Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest Plan Revision

By Ruth Hartzler and Hermann Gucinski

The Forest Service is currently in the process of revising the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests Management Plan. The management plan will set forest policy for 15 years and will be the basis for decisions on logging, recreation, special use, old growth and other ecological designations, and scenic preservation. For the Carolina Mountain Club, this is an opportunity to seek improvements in aspects of the forests related to hiking, and a challenge to prioritize what needs protection. Changes to the management plan may affect trail configuration and location (loop trails, new trails, long dis-

tance trails), trail construction, trail maintenance, safety, multiple-use, viewsheds, ambience, and ecology.

The Forest Service is seeking user input and is encouraging user groups with differing needs to collaborate on elements of the management plan. One formative collaborative that CMC has participated in includes representatives from mountain bikers, horsemen, timber interests, and more. How should CMC participate? Should we communicate independently with the Forest Service, participate in the Collaborative as an observer, or formally join the Collaborative? Whatever we do, we need to set priorities for what we want

in the plan.

CMC members are invited to check CMC's website periodically and check the *eNews* for information on opportunities for them to let the Forest Service know what they, as individuals, would like in the Pisgah/Nantahala management plan, and for information on CMC's activities. CMC has developed a preliminary list of attributes that we want in the revised management plan:

- Preserve the natural appeal and solitude that hikers enjoy on the forest trails.
- Provide a logical system of hiking trails that includes loop hikes and long distance hikes, as well as access to points of interest and a wide variety of scenery and habitats.
- Accommodate the growing demand for recreation in Pisgah and Nantahala Forests due to population growth in WNC area, the growing number of visitors to the area, and increasing interest in outdoor recreation.
- Protect the trail environment from timbering, erosion and other disturbance of these natural areas.



Are we in?



Are we out?

Photos by Hermann Gucinski.

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COUNCIL CORNER

As we enter the last quarter of CMC's 90th Anniversary I can't help but be proud of the Club's accomplishments. In just this past year our trail builders have almost completed the most challenging section of the Mountains to Sea Trail over Waterrock Knob. And because of this dedication we expect the State to commit to a MST route that ensures through hik-



ers will have an opportunity to marvel, not just the views from the Trail, but the effort and work(wo)manship that went into building it.

CMC members participated in making the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Biennial Conference in Cullowhee a major success. Under our own Lenny Bernstein's leadership, yeoman efforts by Bruce Bente (hikes) and Danny Bernstein (excursions), and many, many other CMC volunteers, attendees from across the country had an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the Western North Carolina mountains.

And there's more to come as we head into our 91st year. Under the leadership of our Conservation Committee we expect to play a meaningful role in development of the Forest Service's Land Management Plan. Our Education Committee will be offering the first official CMC "family-friendly" hikes along with a map and compass course. And, of course, we will offer our usual array of hikes while our maintaining crews and section maintainers ensure the trails are ready for all hikers.

– Marcia Bromberg

CMC Volunteers impact 2013 ATC Biennial

By Stuart English

For the first time since 2005 the Appalachian Trail Conservancy held its Biennial Conference in Western North Carolina and many of us took advantage of the proximity. Sixty-two CMC members led hikes, led excursions, sat at information tables, helped with food, housing, camping, and were instrumental on the Steering Committee that was responsible for the entire event.

Here are the impressions of some volunteers:



Bev McDowell: "I so enjoyed my first experience of an A.T. Biennial Conference. Everything was super organized with plenty of informed, friendly volunteers. I roomed with a neat lady from Delaware, a through hiker. We have corresponded post conference ... a new friend made! (She lectured on cooking on trail.) I took fabulous classes myself: Wildflowers of A.T.), Trails to the Classroom, and Section Hiking the A.T. I participated in two fire tower hikes led by our own Barbara Morgan & Tish Desjardins. It was fun to hike with folks from other places. One person I hiked with had been giving financially to the ATC for years and was there to see the cause she had been supporting. I also hiked with the executive director of the ATC, Steve Paradis. Well, needless to say, I have put July 17-July 20, 2015, on my calendar. If my 2002 Suburban bus is still running then perhaps some of you will ride with me to Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia!"

Barbara Morgan: "The campus picnic area turned out to be a surprisingly good campground, with over 100 sites designated, and 70-80 in use at any one time. It was especially nice enjoying morning coffee on the banks of the bordering stream!"

Ashok Kudva: "During the hikes I led, ten-year old Anabelle impressed me with her love for nature, and 94-year old Jack was inspiring with his enthusiasm for

hiking. History of the A.T. hikes I led, featuring spectacular views at Albert Mountain and Siler Bald, emphasized the contribution of the Rev. Dr. Rufus Morgan, (1885-1983), founder of the Nantahala Hiking Club. The "Prehab for Hiking 50+" workshop presenter Sue Williams, 65, a fibromyalgia patient for her first forty years, was a wealth of information about exercises for improving balance, flexibility and core strength as we age. Two photography workshops, Better Photography On and Off the Trail, and Waterfalls by the guru himself, Kevin Adams, taught the use of many photo tools. The WCU campus itself afforded enjoyable visits to the library, bookstore, and the museum that featured Horace Kephart and the early days of the Smoky Mountains National Park."

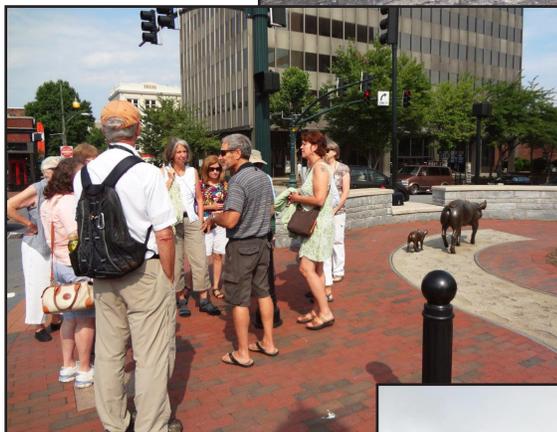
Bruce Bente (Co-leader of Biennial Hiking Committee): "One thousand, seven hundred and forty-nine hikers over

seven days on 150 hikes. A lot of work but a lot of fun too. Very satisfying because the hikes went well and everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves. I have a feeling of personal satisfaction that all my hard work paid off. Glad that the weather was good (mostly). Only a few showers in the first few days, then dry weather. No days of solid rain (which we were worrying about, considering what is happening this summer)

A chance to be part of a well-organized team where everyone was pulling his/her weight and doing his/her job. It was successful because everyone was working hard on his/her assignments. I was pleased that the 2015 Hikes Committee team worked with us closely. This will help them to produce a successful 2015 conference. HOORAY, WE DID IT!!!!!"

Danny Bernstein (Excursions): "Excursions

ranged from active ones like ziplining to cultural ones like an art walk through Asheville. We were able to show off a couple of areas that can't be replicated anywhere else. The Biltmore Estate, the largest private



From the top: excursion goers enjoy wine tasting at the Biltmore Estate; Hikers at Cable Cove Shelter on the A.T.; Art walk in downtown Asheville; People wait at Departure Zone for hike/excursion.

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TRAIL MAINTENANCE

All members are encouraged to participate in trail maintenance activities. Non-members are invited to try it a few times before deciding if they want to join the Club and be a regular part of a crew. We train and provide tools.

Below is a general schedule of work days. Exact plans often are not made until the last minute, so contact crew leaders for details. Crews marked with an * are currently seeking new members. MST and AT section maintainers work on their own schedule.

Monday

Barth Brooker, barthb@bellsouth.net

Monday Burnsville Crew

John Whitehouse,
johnwhitehouse@frontier.com

Wednesday Waynesville West*

Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net

Thursday Asheville Crew

Bill Falender, billfalender@hotmail.com

Friday Asheville*

Skip Sheldon, shelhalla@bellsouth.net

Friday Pisgah

Pete (R) Petersen, roap@aol.com

Wilderness Crew (Saturday bimonthly)*

Becky Smucker, bjsmucker@gmail.com

Saturday quarterly*

Les Love, lesrlove55@gmail.com

Draft Crew

Kayah Gadish, kayita79@gmail.com

MST sections

Barth Brooker, barthb@bellsouth.net

Les Love, lesrlove55@gmail.com

Pete (R) Petersen, roap@aol.com

Larry Sobil, lsobil@bellsouth.net

AT sections

Tim Carrigan, tim@newprisim.com

HIKE SCHEDULE Fourth Quarter 2013

Hike Ratings

First Letter Distance	Second Letter Elevation Gain
AA: Over 12 miles	AA: Over 2,000 ft.
A: 9-12 miles	A: 1,501-2,000 ft.
B: 6-9 miles	B: 1,001-1,500 ft.
C: Under 6 miles	C: Under 1,000 ft.

All hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted.

Hike cancellations are announced on the CMC website in the "Breaking News Box." Hike Leaders will announce a cancellation or significant change at least a few hours before the hike meeting time. **Hikers that do not have internet access or live hours away from the meeting place: call the hike leader to ensure that you are informed about hike changes.**

If it's not possible for a hiker to go on the regularly scheduled hike, it may be possible to accompany the leader when the hike is scouted. Call or

email the hike leader.

See the Hike Schedule on the CMC website for more complete and timely information, including scout reports, at www.carolinamountainclub.org.

CHALLENGE PROGRAMS

SB6K For hiking all 40 peaks above 6000'. Contact Peter Barr, pjbar@gmail.com

P400 For hiking every trail in Pisgah Ranger District. Contact Dave Wetmore, dwetmore@citcom.net

900M For hiking every trail in GSMNP. Contact Dave Wetmore, dwetmore@citcom.net

LTC For hiking all 24 lookout towers in WNC. Contact Peter Barr, pjbar@gmail.com

WC100 For hiking to the 100 best waterfalls in the mountains of WNC, SC and the Smokies. Contact Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897, suejackfitz@bellsouth.net

WEDNESDAY HIKES

Wednesday hikes submitted by Ann Gleason 828-859-9387, gleason.ann@gmail.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B unless otherwise noted. Some hikes will have second meeting places as described in the schedule; start times may vary. *Times listed are departure times – arrive early.*

Wednesday No. W1304-489

Oct. 2

Bad Fork- Trace Ridge Loop *8:30 AM

Hike 8, Drive 60, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374, ashok.kudva@att.net

P400 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at meet leader at Ingles parking lot in Mills River off NC 280 at N. Mills River Rd., behind the gas station, at 8:50 AM. From the Trace Ridge parking area, we will hike to the Bad Fork Trail, which will take us to the BRP on a steep 800 ft. ascent. From the BRP, we will have a long climb to Ferrin Knob. Then it will be all downhill to Beaver Dam overlook and Trace Ridge Trail to the cars. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map # 780

Wednesday No. W1304-092

Oct. 9

Heartbreak Ridge *8:00 AM

Hike 11.5, Drive 55, 2950 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA+
Rich Sampson, cell: 704-453-9059,

SATURDAY WORKDAY

For the Saturday MST Trail Building Workdays in 2013, meet at 8:30 at the Home Depot at the Enka-Candler Exit 44 off of I-40. The last workday is October 19. As in the past, we will be back in Asheville by 3:00. Call Les Love at 828-658-1489 (lesrlove55@gmail.com) to verify date.

sampson_r@bellsouth.net

*Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM.

The trip is an almost steady climb of 2950 ft on a good trail that we share with mountain bikes, starting 500 feet past Brookside Church and ending at the BRP. Great views from Bernard's Rock (named for Bernard Elias) looking down on the valley and the railroad tracks disappearing into the tunnels of the area from the first ridge. Great views of Greybeard, Rocky Knob and Blue Ridge Pinnacle as the trail follows the ridgeline for a large part of the hike. Topo(s): Old Fort, Montreat, NatGeo map #779 Linville Gorge Mt. Mitchell

Wednesday No. W1304-475

Oct. 16

Hump Mountain/

Yellow Mountain Area *8:00 AM

Hike 9, Drive 140, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA

Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656,

cell: 828-606-7297, clworley@bellsouth.net

*Only Meeting Place: Rose's Parking Lot across from McDonalds off Exit 19 of I-26 (US 25/70 exit).

We will hike from Roaring Creek Road to Yellow Mountain Gap, joining the A.T., along an open ridge to Little Hump Mtn., and Hump Mtn. We will have lunch on a grassy bald at 5587 ft. and return to Yellow Mtn. Gap, then take the Overmountain Victory Loop back to the trailhead. Topo(s): Carvers Gap, White Rocks Mtn.; also NatGeo map #783

Wednesday No. W1304-216

Oct. 23

Sams Gap to Devil Fork Gap on the A.T. 8:00 AM

Hike 8.5, Drive 90, 1900 ft. ascent, Rated B-A

Janet Martin, cell: 502-494-9309,

jaykaymartin@msn.com

Follow AT south from Sams Gap parking lot to an overlook at High Rock, then to Rice Gap, Lick Rock, Sugarloaf Gap and end at Devil Fork Gap. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Sams Gap

Wednesday No. W1304-437

Oct. 30

Slate Rock Creek-Pilot Cove *8:30 AM

Hike 6, Drive 80, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated C-B

Jack Fitzgerald, 828-685-2897,

suejackfitz@bellsouth.net

P400 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station at 9:00 AM.

A moderate hike up the beautiful Slate Rock Creek trail, then to overlook on Pilot Cove Loop Trail for lunch. Lots of fall colors. Short car shuttle. Topo(s): Shining Rock

Wednesday No. W1304-444

Nov. 6

Avery Creek Loop *8:30 AM

Hike 10, Drive 80, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A

Stuart English, 828-384-1759,

stuengo@comporium.net

P400, WC100 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM.

A scenic hike featuring waterfalls and a beaver dam. We'll first climb to Buckhorn Gap via Twin

Falls, then follow the Black Mtn. Trail to Club Gap, with our return downhill on the Avery Creek Trail. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest, Shining Rock; also NatGeo. map #780

Wednesday No. W1304-493 **Nov. 13**
Pine Mtn. Loop II **8:30 AM**

Hike 9.5, Drive 29, 2400 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Barbara Morgan, 828-738-3395,
cell: 828-460-7066, barbc129@gmail.com
P400 An in-and-out hike up to Pine Mtn. from the Bent Creek side via Explorer Loop, Chestnut Cove Tr., and MST. Bushwhack up to Pine Mtn. from BRP, then down the other side to MST; down Ruth's Ridge and Lower Sidehill Tr. to cars. A nice mix of trails, some bushwhacking, and wonderful late-fall views at the lunch spot on Double Head. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn., NatGeo map #780

Wednesday No. W1304-367 **Nov. 20**
FS816 to Bridges Camp Gap
via Grassy Cove ***8:30 AM**

Hike 8.3, Drive 65, 1651 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Laura Frisbie, cell: 828-337-5845,
laurafrisbie@gmail.com

P400, SB6K *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at at BRP Cold Mountain Overlook (MM412) at 9:10 AM. *Wilderness hike, limited to ten hikers—call leader for reservation.* A favorite hike of many that includes a gorgeous variety of environments. Follow the ALT to Black Balsam and Tennent Mtn, then descend to Ivestor Gap, turn right and hike down Grassy Cove Ridge to the Big East Fork of the Pigeon River, then right onto Bridges Camp Trail to MST and Bridges Camp Gap. Car shuttle. Topo(s): Shining Rock; also NatGeo map #780

Wednesday **Nov. 27**
NO HIKE SCHEDULED. STAY HOME AND GET READY FOR THANKSGIVING.

Wednesday No. W1304-093 **Dec. 4**
Greybeard Mountain **8:30 AM**

Hike 9.2, Drive 35, 3100 ft. ascent, Rated A-AA
Danny Bernstein, cell: 828-450-0747,
danny@hikertohiker.com
A loop using Big Piney Ridge up to Graybeard Mountain and returning to Montreat via Walker Knob and Pot Cove Gap. There'll be good views, a delightful hike and a good workout--we'll take it at a moderate pace. The first mile is very steep. **Second meeting place: Ingles parking lot off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:50 AM.** Topo(s): Montreat; also Montreat Trails Map

Wednesday No. W1304-331 **Dec. 11**
Cantrell Lodge site via Sharpy Mtn. ***8:30 AM**

Hike 8, Drive 55, 1500 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, cell: 828-699-6296,
bbente@bellsouth.net
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:00 AM.

Start with a warm-up climb over Sharpy Mtn. to Wagon Road Gap, then descend to the South Mills River Trail and hike upriver to our lunch spot at a pleasant open field, former site of Cantrell Lodge. Cross 3 pedestrian footbridges over the S. Mills River. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest

Wednesday No. W1304-323 **Dec. 18**
Bent Creek Loop #3 **9:30 AM**

Hike 6, Drive 20, 1250 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ruth Hartzler, 828-251-0886,
ruthmtn@charter.net

P400 Starting at Hardtimes Trailhead, we will skirt Lake Powhatan and climb to Grassy Knob, using the Deerfield Connector and unmarked trails. We'll return on Sleepy Gap and Explorer trails. **Second meeting place: Ingles across from Biltmore at 9:40 AM.**

ALL-DAY WEEKEND HIKES

All-day hikes submitted by Bruce Bente, 828-692-0116, bbente@bellsouth.net. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All Saturday and Sunday hikes assemble at the far rear (north end) of Westgate Shopping Center at I-240 exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places, and starting times may vary.

Sunday No. A1304-804 **Oct. 6**
Mountain Treasures Camporee #5

Ted Snyder, 864-638-3686,
tedsnyderjr@bellsouth.net
The fifth in a series of car camping weekends will feature seven hikes into a cluster of nearby Mountain Treasures. We will camp at the Rattler Ford Group Campground, site 1, near Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. There will be a group bar-b-que supper Saturday night. Reservations are required, both for camping and for the bar-b-que. Please make reservations with Ted Snyder. For details, go to the CMC website and click "camporee page". The website gives driving directions, hike descriptions and plans for the bar-b-que. Any questions should be put to Ted.

Saturday No. A1304-406 **Oct. 12**
Pink Beds to Clawhammer

and Return **10:00 AM**

Hike 8, Drive 86, 2300 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
Brenda Worley, 828-684-8656,
cell: 828-606-7297, clworley@bellsouth.net

P400 We will climb from the Pink Beds (FS 477) to Club Gap. Then we take the Black Mtn. Trail, climbing through Buckhorn Gap and along the ridge to the overlook at Clawhammer Mtn. for lunch and 180-degree views. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 10:30 AM.** Topo(s): Shining Rock, Pisgah Forest; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1304-589 **Oct. 13**
Shut-in Trail & Lake Powhatan loop **9:00 AM**

Hike 9.6, Drive 15, 1600 ft. ascent, Rated A-A

Bob Hysko, cell: 828-243-3630,
rhysko@yahoo.com

P400 This loop follows the MST west, then descends Sleepy Gap Trail, skirts Lake Powhatan and finishes with three miles on the Bent Creek Trail with a dirt road connecting parts of the trail. **Second meeting place: BRP French Broad Overlook at 9:15 AM.** Topo(s): Asheville, Dunsmore Mtn., also NatGeo. map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map

Sunday No. A1304-762 **Oct. 20**
Mt. Cammerer from Davenport Gap **8:00 AM**

Hike 11.6, Drive 114, 3000 ft. ascent,
Rated A-AA+
Mike Knies, 828-628-6712, knies06@att.net
900M, LTC This hike is scheduled for the peak of fall leaf color in the Smokies. It follows the A.T. from Davenport Gap to the historic fire lookout atop Mt. Cammerer. Strenuous, but the payoffs are a good workout and one of the best views in the Smokies. **Second meeting place: Pilot Truck Stop, I-40 at Exit 24 at 8:30 AM, but contact leader first.** Topo(s): Waterville, Hartford; also NatGeo Map #317

Saturday No. A1304-505 **Oct. 26**
The Other Cold Mtn. ***8:30 AM**

Hike 8, Drive 120, 2200 ft. ascent, Rated B-AA
Dave Wetmore, 828-577-0648,
dwetmore@citcom.net
***Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:05 AM.** You may have climbed the Cold Mountain above Waynesville, but have you climbed the Cold Mountain above Panthertown Valley? This is a pleasant hike with good views of the Pisgah Ledge and at our lunch spot down into Panthertown Valley. Topo(s): Big Ridge; also Panthertown Trail Map

Sunday No. A1304-142 **Oct. 27**
Jerry Miller Trail to A.T.

to Fork Ridge Trail ***8:00 AM**

Hike 10.5, Drive 92, 3300 ft. ascent,
Rated A-AA+
Tish Desjardins, cell: 828-380-1452,
desraylet@aol.com

***Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at US 25/NC 208 intersection at 8:45 AM.** We'll hike up the Jerry Miller Trail to Bearwallow Gap and right on the A.T. to Andrew Johnson Mtn. for lunch and exceptional views; right on the Fork Ridge Trail down to FS 111 and a short walk to the cars. Topo(s): Greystone; also NatGeo map #782

Sunday No. A1304-265 **Nov. 3**
Panthertown Prowl **8:30 AM**

(moderate)
Hike 8, Drive 120, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Becky Smucker, 828-231-2198,
bjsmucker@gmail.com
WC100 NOTE: First day of EST. This moderate loop hike has everything: waterfalls, granite

domes with impressive cliffs, high-altitude bogs, a lovely valley floor and great views from the tops of Little Green and Big Green Mountains. Perhaps there will even be some late leaf color. **Second meeting place: Bi-Lo in Pisgah Forest at 9:00 AM.** Topo(s): Big Ridge

Sunday No. A1304-371 **Nov. 3**
Squirrel Gap–Horse Cove Gap 8:45 AM
(strenuous)

Hike 12, Drive 80, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Carroll Koeplinger, 828-667-0723,
carrollkoepp@bellsouth.net

P400 NOTE: First day of EST. This hike is designed to cover lesser-used trails that are included in the P400 program. We will start from the Gauging Station, hike to Wolfe Ford and take the Squirrel Gap Trail, make a loop on the upper Cantrell Creek and Horse Cove Gap Trails, and then return via the Rigby cutoff. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 9:15 AM.** Topo(s): Pisgah Forest

Sunday No. A1304-489 **Nov. 10**
Bad Fork - Trace Ridge Loop 8:30 AM
Hike 8, Drive 60, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Jeff Wasserman, cell: 828-243-7815,
jbwass47@gmail.com

P400 From the Trace Ridge parking area, we will hike a short distance along a gravel road to the Bad Fork Trail, which will take us to the BRP on a steep 800 ft. ascent. From the BRP, we will have a long, steady climb to Ferrin Knob, then down to Beaver Dam Overlook for lunch. After lunch, we continue down the Trace Ridge Trail. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map # 780

Saturday No. A1304-814 **Nov. 16**
Lake Imaging P.L. #3
Ridgeline - Jim Branch *10:00 AM
Hike 6.9, Drive 80, 1090 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374,
ashok.kudva@att.net

***Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 10:30 AM.** A pleasant double-loop hike in a section of DuPont Forest that CMC has not hiked before. Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Recreation Forest Trail Map (2012 is latest revision)

Sunday No. A1304-178 **Nov. 17**
Sleepy Gap -
Stradley Mtn. - Boyd Branch 8:30 AM
Hike 9.7, Drive 25, 1700 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Stuart English, 828-883-2447,
cell: 828-384-1759, stuengo@comporium.net
From Sleepy Gap on the BRP, we'll hike the MST to Yellow Gap and Stradley Mtn, then hike to Ingles Field and down Boyd Branch. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map #780

Sunday No. A1304-683 **Nov. 24**
DuPont Forest: Hooker Falls P.L. #3 -
Five Falls Loop 8:30 AM
Hike 11.2, Drive 95, 1250 ft. ascent, Rated A-B

Danny Bernstein, cell: 828-450-0747,
danny@hikertohiker.com

WC100 This hike takes in five outstanding waterfalls and two cemeteries. On the way, we'll climb to a ridge in the forest that gets few visitors. **Second meeting place: Bi-Lo in Pisgah Forest at 9:00 AM.** Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; also DuPont State Recreational Forest map

Saturday No. A1304-747 **Nov. 30**
Rainbow Falls and Pretty Place *9:00 AM
Hike 8, Drive 95, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Bev MacDowell, 828-684-1000,
bevmacdowellhappy@charter.net

WC100 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at NE corner of Cracker Barrel parking lot at Exit 53 of I-26 at 9:30 AM., or Jones Gap State Park at 9:45 AM. This in-and-out hike at Jones Gap State Park (NOTE: \$2 entry fee per person) will first go up to beautiful Rainbow Falls, continue on a rope-assisted trail up to the ridgeline and over to Pretty Place for lunch. Return via the same route. Topo(s): Cleveland, Standingstone Mtn.; also Mountain Bridge Wilderness map

Sunday No. A1304-629 **Dec. 1**
Rough Creek 9:00 AM

Hike 7.5, Drive 55, 1800 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Lenny Bernstein, cell: 828-450-1325,
lennybernstein41@gmail.com
This is a rarely used trail in the Canton Watershed. During this loop hike, we walk uphill in the morning, largely on old roads, to a ridge line with long distance views. Shortly after we start down, we'll have lunch on rocks overlooking a beautiful valley. After lunch we return downhill, crossing Rough Creek on a bridge. Topo(s): Canton

Sunday No. A1304-404 **Dec. 8**
Lemon Gap to Garenflo Gap 8:00 AM
Hike 7.4, Drive 125, 1720 ft. ascent, Rated B-A
Jim Reel, 828-738-0751, cell: 828-443-2537,
jimr57@yahoo.com

We will start the hike northbound on the A.T. at Lemon Gap and climb about 700 ft. up to the Walnut Mt. Shelter. The trail descends 600 ft. to Kale Gap through open forests and begins to ascend through Catpen Gap on up to the summit of Bluff Mtn. (4686 ft.) on well-graded trail. There will be worthwhile views at the top and on both sides of Bluff Mtn. The descent down the mountain is buffered by switchbacks and tapers out to a fairly gentle hike halfway down. It is all downhill from Bluff Mtn. to Garenflo Gap, about four miles. A car shuttle is planned, but the leader is investigating changing this to a key swap. Topo(s): Lemon Gap

Saturday No. A1304-642 **Dec. 14**
Smokemont Loop 10:00 AM
Hike 6.2, Drive 110, 1300 ft. ascent, Rated B-B
Barbara Morgan, 828-738-3395,
cell: 828-460-7066, barbc129@gmail.com

900M A loop hike from Smokemont Campground that goes up Bradley Fork Trail, paralleling the beautiful stream. We'll turn left onto Smokemont Loop Trail, crossing Bradley Fork on a long and narrow split log bridge with a steel cable hand rail, to complete the loop over Richland Mountain, with a stop at Bradley Cemetery on the way back. A wonderful late-autumn hike in the Smokies that avoids deer hunters. **Second meeting place: Maggie Valley Post Office at 10:30 AM, but contact leader first.** Topo(s): Smokemont; also NatGeo. map #317

Sunday No. A1304-584 **Dec. 15**
Butter Gap Loop *9:00 AM

Hike 9, Drive 75, 2000 ft. ascent, Rated A-A
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471,
mwbromberg@yahoo.com

P400 *First meeting place: Ingles on NC 191 across from Biltmore Square. We'll follow the Butter Gap trail through the beautiful Grogan Creek watershed and Picklesheimer Fields, part of the ALT, and down the Cat Gap trail. A great late-autumn hike with streams, waterfalls and views. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 9:40 AM.** Topo(s): Shining Rock, Rosman; also NatGeo. map #780

Sunday No. A1304-555 **Dec. 22**
MST: NC 80 to Woods Mtn. 8:00 AM

Hike 10, Drive 90, 1400 ft. ascent, Rated A-B
Marty Easton, cell: 828-228-0136,
mneaston@me.com
***Form carpools at Westgate, stop at second meeting place listed below, and meet leader at parking area on NC 80 just before BRP at 9:00 AM.** Hike on a little-traveled section of the eastbound MST north of NC 80 to Woods Mtn., with seldom-seen views of the Blacks and Mt. Mitchell. **Second meeting place: parking lot adjacent to Ingles off Exit 64 of I-40 at 8:20 AM.** Topo(s): Celo, Little Switzerland

Sunday No. A1304-328 **Dec. 29**
Bent Creek Loop #5 – Ingles Field 9:00 AM

Hike 8, Drive 20, 800 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Les and Catherine Love, 828-658-1489,
cell: 828-230-1861, lesrlove55@gmail.com
Come out to enjoy a moderate hike in the Bent Creek area. From Hardtimes trailhead, we'll do a loop hike around Lake Powhatan, Explorer and Sidehill Trails, and descend past Ingles Field to our cars. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo. map #780 and Bent Creek Trail Map

HALF-DAY SUNDAY HIKES

Newcomers are welcome, but non-members MUST call the leader before the hike to determine the requirements. Half-day hikes submitted by Gail Lamb, 828-338-0443, glamb46@gmail.com and Lee Silver, 828-668-7147, leehsilver@aol.com. Driving distance is round-trip from Asheville. All hikes assemble at the far rear (north

end) of Westgate Shopping Center near I-240 exit 3B UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. Some hikes will have second meeting places, and starting times may vary. *Times listed are departure times – arrive early.*

Half-Day No. H1304-319 **Oct. 6**
Holmes Educational State Forest *12:30 PM
Hike 4.7, Drive 75, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Ashok Kudva, 828-698-7119, cell: 828-674-1374,
Ashok.Kudva@att.net
***Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Bi-Lo in Pisgah Forest at 1:00 PM.** Pleasant walk through Holmes State Forest. The first 0.7 miles on Wildcat Rock Trail has a steep 450 ft climb. It is a well maintained trail with smooth switchbacks. Topo(s): Standingstone Mountain and Holmes Educational State Forest Map

Half-Day No. H1304-453 **Oct. 13**
Max Patch Loop *10:00 AM
Hike 6, Drive 100, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Jack Dalton, 828-622-3704, cell: 828-380-0848,
jckdalton9@gmail.com
***Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Old Spring Creek School building on NC 209 in Spring Creek at 10:45 AM.** Drive to Max Patch parking area, hike up to top to join the A.T., enjoy views and head South on A.T. to pick up Buckeye Ridge Trail, loop around back to A.T. to top of Max Patch, then return to cars. Awesome 360-degree panoramic views from summit of Max Patch make this a favorite hike. Topo(s): Lemon Gap

Half-Day No. H1304-436 **Oct. 20**
Mt. Pisgah from Pisgah Inn *12:30 PM
Hike 5.1, Drive 44, 1100 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Dennis Bass, 828-367-7792, cell: 713-828-5432,
DBass3607@GMail.com
P400 *First meeting place: Ingles parking lot across from Biltmore Mall on NC 191. View beautiful scenery from the top of Mt. Pisgah on this in-and-out hike. Last 1/2 mile to the top is very steep and rocky. This a fairly tough C-B hike.
Second meeting place: Pisgah Inn parking lot near the convenience store at 1:00 PM. Topo(s): Cruso, Dunsmore Mtn.; also NatGeo map #780

Half-Day No. H1304-062 **Oct. 27**
Daniel Ridge Loop *12:15 PM
Hike 4, Drive 70, 800 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Bobbi Powers, 828-667-5419,
bobbipowers23@gmail.com
P400, WC100 *First meeting place: Ingles on Brevard Road. This moderate (not easy) loop hike has lots to "C": fall Color, Creeks, Chasms, and a Cool Cascade finale. **Second meeting place: Pisgah Fish Hatchery at 1:00 PM.** Topo(s): Shining Rock

Half-Day No. H1304-101 **Nov. 3**
Lower Big Laurel Creek *12:30 PM
Hike 6, Drive 50, 350 ft. ascent, Rated C-C

Russ and Heather Cooper, 828-484-9562,
***Only Meeting Place: Rose's Parking lot in Weaverville – Exit 19B off I-26.** Hike along a beautiful stream with whitewater, big rocks and surrounding high cliffs to the French Broad River. Parts of the trail are rocky – hiking boots/shoes are recommended. Topo(s): Hot Springs

Half-Day No. H1304-816 **Oct. 27**
English Chapel Hike *12:30 PM
from Pisgah Ranger Station
Hike 2, Drive 70, 100 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Kay Shurtleff, 828-749-9230, cell: 828-280-3226,
kshurtleff@msn.com
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Ranger Station at 1:00 PM. Join in CMC's Family-Friendly Hike to the English Chapel. The chapel was established in 1860 and is still a working United Methodist church with Sunday services. The original building served as both church and school house for the 50 families of the Davidson River Community. Bring your family, grandchildren or a young friend for an easy hike with a short history lesson and nature experience. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water and a snack. Topo(s): Pisgah Forest

Half-Day No. H1304-324 **Nov. 10**
Bent Creek Loop # 4 *12:30 PM
Hike 5, Drive 15, 600 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Karin Eckert, 828-593-8453,
karingarden@yahoo.com
P400 *Only Meeting Place: Ingles parking lot across from Biltmore Square Mall on NC 191. A pleasant moderate loop hike in the Bent Creek Experimental Forest, starting at Hard Times trail-head and using parts of Homestead Trail, Small Creek Trail, Deerfield Loop, Pine Tree Loop, South Ridge Rd, Sleepy Gap Trail, Explorer loop, Pine tree loop and then along FS 479. Topo(s): Skyland, Dunsmore Mtn.

Half-Day No. H1304-817 **Nov. 17**
Hooker Falls P.L. #5 *12:30 PM
Three Falls Loop
Hike 6, Drive 94, 650 ft. ascent, Rated B-C
Lee Belknap, 828-698-9394,
rivergypsy@sprintmail.com
***Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Hooker Falls Parking Lot at 1:30 PM.** A pleasant loop past Triple Falls, High Falls, and Lake Imaging, returning via Holly Trail. There will be a side trip to Grassy Creek Falls. Topo(s): Standingstone Mtn.; DuPont Forest trails map

Half-Day No. H1304-815 **Nov. 24**
Sams Gap to Street Gap on the A.T. 12:00 PM
Hike 4.6, Drive 60, 1200 ft. ascent, Rated C-B
Dick Zimmerer, 828-989-0480,
jddlzz@yahoo.com
This is a short hike on the Appalachian Trail from Sams Gap north to Street Gap, returning along the same path. After a somewhat strenuous uphill at

the start of this hike, the trail levels off on a ridge that runs along the NC-TN border. At this time of year, with the leaves off the trees, we should have nice views including Big Bald and the ski slopes of Wolf Laurel. **Second meeting place: Rose's Shopping Center off I-26 Exit 19B at 12:15 PM.** Topo(s): Sams Gap; also Nat Geo map #782

Half-Day No. H1304-490 **Dec. 1**
Craven Gap to Folk Art Center *12:00 PM
Hike 5.4, Drive 16, 750 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Renate Rikkers, 828-298-9988,
rerikkers@aol.com
***Only Meeting Place: back parking lot of Folk Art Center.** An enjoyable section of the MST that's easy on the knees and a great hike for all seasons. It's a short car shuttle, and the trail allows keeping up a steady pace to stay warm. A snack stop at the Haw Creek Overlook presents the Haw Creek Valley below and offers long range views to the west. Topo(s): Oteen, Craggy Pinnacle

Half-Day No. H1304-295 **Dec. 8**
Lover's Leap/Pump Gap Loop 12:30 PM
Hike 5, Drive 80, 1000 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Marcia Bromberg, 828-505-0471,
mwbromberg@yahoo.com
This variation of hike # 295 will take the A.T. up Lover's Leap to the junction with Pump Gap Trail and finish on Silvermine Trail. Great views of French Broad River, Hot Springs and far mountains. **Second meeting place: Rose's parking lot off Exit 19B of I-26 at 12:45 PM.** Topo(s): Hot Springs

Half-Day No. H1304-431 **Dec. 15**
Chestnut Cove to MST *12:30 PM
to Sleepy Gap to Explorer Trail
Hike 5, Drive 20, 900 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Joe Burchfield, 828-338-0443,
burchfield@niu.edu
P400 *Only Meeting Place: Ingles parking lot across from Biltmore Square Mall on NC 191. This loop hike begins with a moderately steep climb from the Bent Creek Gap Road to the MST, but is otherwise an easy walk. Topo(s): Dunsmore Mtn., also USFS Bent Creek Trail map

Half-Day No. H1304-666 **Dec. 22**
Pink Beds Loop *11:30 AM
Hike 5, Drive 80, 200 ft. ascent, Rated C-C
Stuart English, cell: 828-384-1759,
stuengo@comporium.net
P400 *Form carpools at Westgate and meet leader at Pisgah Forest Bi-Lo at 12:00 PM. A 5-mile hike on the Pink Beds Loop Trail with a possible stop on the CMC-built boardwalk over the pond that the beavers made. Topo(s): Shining Rock; NatGeo map #780

Sunday **Dec. 29**
NO HIKE SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME;
CHECK CMC BREAKING NEWS FOR
POSSIBLE CHANGE.

Kay Shurtleff: CMC Councilor for Education

I joined CMC in 2006 and have been involved ever since. I am a member of Becky Smucker's Wilderness Crew. I have especially enjoyed the 100 Waterfalls Challenge and found trailheads and waterfalls that I would have never seen without the challenge. I retired in 2009 as an Exceptional Education teacher, but have held positions as tutor, interim teacher, and part-time home-

bound teacher since then. Volunteer positions I've been involved in are ECO bio-monitoring, VWIN water quality monitor, Big Sweep, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. My son is an Eagle Scout and I'm currently a board member in a Cub Scout Pack. I belong to CMLC. I also serve as Senior Games Ambassador for NC Senior Games. As the Education Councilor, I would like to encourage members to par-

ticipate in additional hiking and safety courses. Also, I would like to reach out and encourage children and teens to participate in hiking activities. I am planning to lead a "Family-Friendly" hike Winter quarter.

– Kay Shurtleff

Nomination and membership renewal; Annual Dinner reservation forms

Inserted in this newsletter is the form which CMC members can use to nomi-

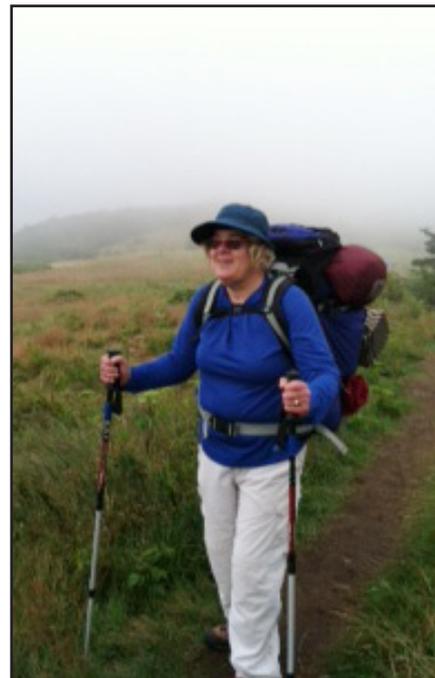
nate those who have either made a lasting influence on our club in a calendar year or over the long term length of their membership. Also there is the form with which members can both renew their membership and reserve their place at our Annual Dinner on November 1. Both forms are self-explanatory, and can also be done on our website.

The Annual Dinner will include a Past Presidents Panel that will discuss club history in this, our 90th Anniversary year. DON'T MISS IT.

Time to Renew Membership!

This is a gentle reminder that all CMC membership dues need to be in by Jan. 1, 2014. Please fill out the application in this issue of Let's Go and send it, with your dues, to:

Carolina Mountain Club
P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802



Kay Shurtleff

Volunteers at 2013 ATC Biennial

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home in the US, was a big draw for many ATC excursion goers. An excursion took people on a 'day out in Cherokee.' They visited the museum, the art and craft gallery and other galleries, walked up to Mingo Falls and ate lunch at an authentic Indian-owned restaurant. And yes, they took a peek into the Casino. I led an excursion to "Unto those Hills", the Cherokee outdoor drama. They loved it – and so did I."

Lenny Bernstein (Chairman of Steering Committee for Biennial): "It

was a great biennial. As Chair of the committee that organized the event, I've received so many compliments that my head is swimming. I couldn't have done it without years of support from Bruce Bente, Danny Bernstein, Marcia Bromberg, Tish Desjardins, and Carroll Koeplinger, all of whom had critical roles in planning the meeting. My thanks also to the dozens of CMC volunteers who led hikes and excursions, gave workshops, took tickets, directed people in the cafeteria, and staffed desks at the biennial itself. Our planning would have been worthless without you to make the plans work."

The Biennial was a wonderful way to meet hikers from other regions of the country. CMC hikers distinguished themselves with their leadership efforts, spread goodwill for the club, and took with them priceless memories.



An ATC registration desk in Cullowhee.

Plan Revision

continued from page 1

- Actively support Leave No Trace principles.
- Manage trail use to protect trail tread.
- Actively ensure appropriate trail uses.
- Protect trail tread from damage by machines, water, and erosion.
- Build less-developed trails in more remote areas.
- Protect natural resources in trail environments, especially in sensitive ecological areas, such as rare plants and streams.
- Take into consideration that, in addition to being a hiking club, CMC's volunteer members contribute a huge amount of time constructing and maintaining a vast territory of Western North Carolina's hiking trails, including the Appalachian Trail and the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Family-friendly hikes begin Sept. 28, Family Hiking Day

By Jan Onan

CMC family-friendly hikes begin on Saturday, Sept. 28th, Family Hiking Day! Join CMC members Kate Fisher and Jan Onan as we celebrate National Public Lands Day on the Appalachian Trail at Max Patch near Hot Springs, NC. The first meeting place is at 9:00 a.m. in the Upward Elementary gym parking lot (45 Education Drive, off Upward Road across from the Cracker Barrel at Exit 53 of I-26). The second meeting place is at 9:30 a.m. at Westgate shopping center in Asheville just off I-240. We will meet in the back of the lot away from the interstate and form carpools to drive to Max Patch. This hike is considered easy by the CMC; however, it is a 500 feet elevation gain all at once to get to the bald.

If you are interested in bringing your family on this hike, please contact either Kate Fisher at 828-606-9315 or Jan Onan at 828-606-5188. This hike is limited to 15 people, so it is necessary to call to make your reservation and get the information needed to be prepared for the hike. We look forward to seeing you!

The next CMC family-friendly hike is scheduled for October 27th. CMC Education committee plans to host at least one per quarter.

Carolina Mountain Club

P.O. Box 68
Asheville, NC 28802

NEXT CMC COUNCIL MEETING

When: October 3, 2013
Where: West Asheville Library meeting room
Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Info: Call Marcia at 505-0471 if you would like to attend.
All CMC members are welcome.

HIKING INFORMATION: CMC hikes are open to all and we welcome guests. Non-members need to call or email the hike leader to introduce themselves and find out more about the hike. All hikers are encouraged to call or e-mail the leader if they have questions about the hike or the location of the meeting place. Hikes may be canceled by the leader due to adverse weather or dangerous roads. Minors are welcome on CMC hikes, if accompanied by a responsible adult. Dogs are not allowed on CMC hikes.

Hikers will carpool from the meeting places to the trailhead and back. Passengers are expected to contribute 10 cents per mile towards the driver's operating expenses. Most CMC hikes do not require reservations. However, check the hiking schedule to determine whether a reservation is required, and if so, call or e-mail the leader to reserve your space.

Hike leaders have the right to reject participants who are not properly equipped for the hike or who are unlikely to be able to complete the hike. All hikers are expected to follow the leader's instructions. No one should get ahead of the leader, or lag behind the sweep, without specific permission. Hikers should obtain the leader's permission if they wish to leave the hike before its completion.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT: CMC's website (www.carolinamountainclub.org, click on Hiking) has a full list of day hiking needs. Most critical are water, footwear, rain gear and a first aid kit. Carry at least two quarts of liquid (water, Gatorade, juice) for a full day hike, no matter what time of year. Hiking boots are recommended for all hikes. They should be broken in before the hike. Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Even if there is no sign of rain in the morning, you need to be prepared for an afternoon shower. Your first aid kit should include any personal medication, including allergy medication, if needed. Wear layered clothing – you'll want to take layers off during a strenuous climb or as the day proceeds, then put them back on in cooler conditions.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY: Each CMC member and guest agrees to accept personal responsibility for his or her own safety and for the safety of accompanying minors. The Club cannot ensure the safety of any participant

Further
information about
regulations is available at [www.
carolinamountainclub.org](http://www.carolinamountainclub.org)

on hikes or trail maintenance activities. Each participant agrees to hold harmless and free from blame event leaders and the CMC, its officers and members, for any accident, injury or illness which might be sustained from participating in Club hikes and other activities.

CONSERVATION: CMC works with other organizations concerned about the protection of our natural heritage to protect trails and the hiking experience in our hiking area. Phone the Councilor for Conservation for details.

MEMBERSHIP: Everyone is eligible for CMC membership by joining and paying dues. To join online or by paper application, go to www.carolinamountainclub.org and click on the green Join button just below the Member Login. Choose either Join CMC online or CMC application form (pdf). Don't have internet access? Mail a note to the CMC address requesting an application form be mailed to you. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families. Hikers are expected to join CMC after participating in a few hikes. Some trail maintenance activities are only open to members.

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB OFFICERS

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Deadline next issue: November 15, 2013